

## THOUGHT HE WAS THE GOVERNOR

Ovations of Multitude Bestowed Upon Substitute for Dignitary.

## STOOD HONORS WELL

When John Golobie Played the Part of Territorial Head for a Day.

By C. M. SARCHET.

PONCA CITY, Okla., April 3.—The presence of John Golobie in this city as one of the guests of honor at the American Legion ball recalls a former visit here of the Guthrie newspaper man, who was a republican candidate for governor in 1918. When he visited Ponca City before, and that was nearly 20 years ago, he was a governor of Oklahoma Territory for a day in the minds of all the people here and didn't know it.

This all occurred during the governorship of Tom Ferguson, editor of the Watonga Republican, who served through appointment by Theodore Roosevelt from late in 1901 for four years. Golobie was then as now the editor-owner of the State Register at Guthrie, and a republican leader in territorial affairs. Ponca City was celebrating the fourth of July, when that date occurred in 1903, one of the greatest celebrations—that had ever been pulled off either in southern Kansas or throughout the Cherokee Strip. The city was full of people, as a result of the many alluring announcements, a feature of which was the fact that Governor Tom Ferguson would be the principal speaker of the day.

The celebration was being held on the banks of the Arkansas river, a mile southeast of town, where nature has provided ample shade for such events. Here the program was to be given and a special platform had been erected for the purpose, with plenty of room for the military band.

But Ferguson Didn't Show. Notwithstanding the announcement that he would make the chief talk, Governor Ferguson did not show up on celebration day. It developed that official business was such that he could not get away from his office in Guthrie, and he so notified the Ponca City committee together with the further announcement that he had prevailed upon John Golobie to make the speech for him.

When the Ponca City committee learned of the governor's announcement there was a hurried conference and it was decided that it would not do to admit that the governor was not coming, that it might prevent the crowd from being as big as was anticipated, and the committee voted to keep still and make an eleven-hour confession if necessary.

The military band was lined up alongside the old Santa Fe station here when the morning train came in from Guthrie and there was a big crowd on hand, all awaiting eagerly the appearance of the governor. The members of the committee had not even told their wives and Golobie himself did not know that he was coming unannounced.

When the Guthrie editor stepped from the train, the parade was formed ready for the march through the business district and on to the Arkansas. The committee immediately took Golobie in charge, rushed him to an open car, drawn by prancing horses, and the parade started. But a very few people had ever seen Governor Ferguson and immediately when Golobie appeared there was a burst of applause for the territory's chief executive.

All along the line of march the people were thick, craning their necks to see the governor. They cheered vociferously and Golobie bowed to the right and to the left, acknowledging the greetings. The crowd fell in behind and followed to the river shore.

Not until the presiding officer announced to the people that Governor Ferguson had been detained and that John Golobie had been sent in his stead did Golobie understand that in the minds of the crowd of people, through which he had just passed, had he been mistaken for the chief executive and that for almost an hour at least he had been taken for the governor of the territory.

Golobie himself told the story recently.

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